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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

**ORAL STATEMENT**

**OF**

**THE HONORABLE LES BROWNLEE**

**UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY**  
**AND**  
**ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY**  
**(CIVIL WORKS)**

**BEFORE**

**THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER**  
**DEVELOPMENT**

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**ON**

**THE ARMY CIVIL WORKS PROGRAM**

**FISCAL YEAR 2004**

**MARCH 26, 2003**

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee and the Subcommittee:

I appreciate very much the opportunity to testify before this Subcommittee and to present the President's Fiscal Year 2004 budget for the Civil Works program of the Army Corps of Engineers, and I am accompanied this morning by Lieutenant General Robert Flowers, Major General Robert Griffin, and Mr. Robert Vining.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to summarize my statement and ask that the complete statement be included in the record.

[INSERT]

The total Civil Works budget for Fiscal Year 2004 is \$4.2 billion. This is approximately the same amount as the total Civil Works budget for 2003.

The budget places priority on ongoing studies and projects in the Corps' primary mission areas of commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration.

The budget emphasizes completing the ongoing construction projects that have completed the Executive Branch review process and are economically justified, environmentally acceptable, technically sound, and consistent with cost sharing policies. The budget provides efficient funding for the 13 projects that can be physically completed in Fiscal Year 2004 and for 8 other ongoing projects that are high priorities of the Administration, as well as substantial funding for the flood protection projects on the main stem of the Mississippi River.

Consistent with the focus on projects that already are under construction, the budget limits funding to plan, design or initiate new projects. However, the budget does provide funding for 22 ongoing design efforts that are estimated to provide substantial economic and environmental returns and that are nearing completion.

The budget includes a number of studies and management initiatives that are designed to support the Administration's priorities, to improve program effectiveness, and to improve the quality and objectivity of project planning and review.

The budget includes funding for reconnaissance studies that exemplify the watershed-based approach to solving water problems. In addition, the budget includes \$2 million for an analysis of whether completed Corps projects are delivering benefits as planned. Further, the budget includes \$3 million to institute an independent review of proposed projects that are likely to be costly, complex, or controversial.

The budget focuses navigation operation and maintenance funding on harbors and waterways with high volumes of commercial traffic. The budget limits operation and maintenance funding for those shallow-draft harbors and inland waterways that have little commercial use, and includes \$1 million to study long-term options for operation and maintenance of those projects.

The budget emphasizes anti-terrorist protection of Civil Works projects and facilities, and includes \$104 million to improve the protection of facilities where the consequences of an attack would be great.

The budget for the Regulatory Program will enable continued improvements in protection of the Nation's wetlands and in the efficiency of permit reviews and decision-making.

The budget provides \$70 million for the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies account. This amount will enable us to respond to major emergencies and to finance most, if not all, recovery costs in a typical year.

The budget includes legislative proposals to expand the uses of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

The budget also includes a legislative proposal for Federal power marketing administrations to directly finance the specific operation and maintenance costs of Corps of Engineers hydropower facilities.

The Civil Works program is separately accountable to the President for implementing the President's Management Agenda. We are making progress on improving performance planning, financial management, human capital planning, competition planning, and e-government.

In summary, I believe the Fiscal Year 2004 Civil Works budget is balanced in accordance with the Nation's priorities, and will make productive contributions to the Nation's economic and environmental well-being. I look forward to working with this Subcommittee on these important issues and appreciate your continuing support.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.